

Community Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
For the Cancer Cluster Investigation
December 1, 2010, 7:00pm-8:30pm
Frederick County Health Department

Agenda

- I. Introductions- J. Bee (via phone last portion of mtg), D. Blank; B. Brookmyer; L. Goldman; J. Hahn; K. Harbaugh; G. Pauly; B. Roberson; J. Sawitzke; R. Watkins; J. Wolfe (new); P. Wolfe (new)
- II. Review of Minutes – ok as written
- III. Review of Purpose of the TAC – ok as written
 - a. To provide assistance in determining what questions should be examined regarding cancer numbers – geographic region, time period, types of cancers, etc. and then
 - b. To identify options for how to answer the question(s)/hypothesis(es)
 - c. DRAFT ADDITION accepted -- Investigation of what chemicals/biologicals/radiologicals/other agents may have contributed to adverse health effects is a separate task that would be carried out by a different entity following a confirmation of the hypothesis as true.
- IV. Review of Working Hypothesis – no changes

There is an increased rate of cancers (gather data on all, possibly narrow down later based on confirmed exposures) within a ¼ mile radius around Ft. Detrick (Area A and B).
- V. Discussion
 - a. DHMH Analysis Pending – age of diagnosis analysis and mapping view
 - b. KRF data – numbers and types of cancers, various years, spanning decades, some cases reported second hand
 - c. Determination of numbers being too high requires knowledge of a denominator which would indicate – out of how many possible “exposed”
 - i. Would allow the calculation of a rate to compare against the rate observed in other areas
 - ii. For the working hypothesis the out of how many possible exposed would be represented by the population in the ¼ mile radius during the period that cancer cases were counted

VI. Homework

- a. BB- check with NCI re SEER data (primary diagnosis, yr diagnosis, age diagnosis, street)
- b. BB- check regarding maps
- c. JH - follow-up on prior contact with UMD student project proposal (how many people at each address within ¼ mile each year)
- d. Others – Hood College epidemiology department contact; 1991 National Academy of Sciences and 1993 Institute of Medicine population data versus standard data for cancer examined for vets and agent orange exposure?

VII. Next Meeting: Dec. 15, 2010